

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-7, 16, and 17 of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicant notes that the original claims were mis-numbered, i.e., 1-13 and 16-17, wherein the numbers 14 and 15 were omitted. The Examiner correctly noted what the numbers should have been. As such, the claims are shown herein with the correct numbering.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-7 and 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Applicant's admission (Admission) or United Kingdom Publication GB 2 309 466A to Johnson et al. (Johnson) in view of U. S. Patent 4,888,229 to Paley et al (Paley).

The Examiner found that Applicant's arguments, filed December 11, 2002, were not persuasive. The Examiner specifically notes that the claims do not positively recite that the wiping occurs in a Class 10 or cleaner cleanroom. Claim 1 has been amended to that end.

The Examiner further notes that the claims do not recite that the fabric is evaluated to determine how many particles are removed, but only recite that the surface is suitable for Class 10 or cleaner cleanrooms. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended to indicate that a fewer number of particles remain on a surface under the claimed method. The claims reflect that the nonwoven fabrics leave no more (and typically less) particles on a surface than the sealed knitted wipes that were previously believed to be the best for wiping in Class 10 cleanrooms. Support for these amendments can be found at Table 4 on page 13 of the specification.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that the subject claims are not obvious in view of the admission and the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. Applicant believes that all rejections have been overcome and that the instant claims are now in condition for allowance or alternatively in condition for appeal. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick D. Strickland", written over a horizontal line.

FREDERICK D. STRICKLAND
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Registration No.: 39,041

Telephone: (302) 892-7940

Facsimile: (302) 892-7343

Dated: May 20, 2003
FDS:fgl